

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 20154 311247Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----043156 311249Z /50
O 311239Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3303
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T CAIRO 20154

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR EG US
SUBJECT: E-1 FINANCING

REF: (A) STATE 220395, (B) CAIRO 20101

1. SUCCEEDED IN REACHING GENERAL GAMASY ON GREY PHONE THIS MORNING AND EXPLAINED I HAD BEEN TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO RETURN HIS CALL TO AMBASSADOR OF AUGUST 26. GAMASY RESPONDED THAT SUBJECT DEALT WITH E-1 STATION. SADAT HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE ANY FIRM DECISION ON WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH PHASE III OF E-1 UNTIL HE SEES HOW TALKS AT CAMP DAVID ARE GOING. GAMASY SAID SADAT HAD WRITTEN THIS SUBJECT "IN HIS NOTEBOOK" AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS E-1 AT CAMP DAVID IF, REPEAT IF, IT IS RAISED BY THE U.S. SIDE. GAMASY EXPLAINED THAT GOE HAD DECIDED NOT TO ACCORD PRIORITY TO E-1 AT THIS TIME AND HAD NO CURRENT INTENTION TO START PHASE III. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER GOE INTENDED TO INFORM GENERAL ELECTRIC OF ITS CURRENT VIEWS AND WHAT THE COMPANY SHOULD BE PLANNING, GAMASY RESPONDED THAT IT WAS UP TO GENERAL ELECTRIC TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO. HE SUGGESTED THEY POSTPONE ANY DECISION UNTIL AFTER THE CAMP DAVID MEETINGS, BUT IT WAS ENTIRELY UP TO THE COMPANY TO DECIDE. IF THEY

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WISHED TO STOP ANY FURTHER WORK, THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT BUT FOR ITS PART GOE WOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE WITH THE COMPANY TO STOP FURTHER PLANS OR WORK. IF GENERAL ELECTRIC WISHED TO CANCEL THE CONTRACT, THAT WAS ENTIRELY UP TO THEM. GOE SIMPLY WISHED TO WAIT TO SEE RESULTS OF CAMP DAVID. GAMASY DID NOT AT ANY POINT ALLUDE TO SAUDI FINANCING.

2. COMMENT: I REALIZE THAT THIS IS NOT A VERY SATISFACTORY RESULT FOR GENERAL ELECTRIC, BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SADAT AND GAMASY PREFER TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION UNTIL THEY SEE WHAT MAY COME OUT OF CAMP DAVID AS IT MAY RELATE TO PURPOSE AND LOCATION OF E-1 STATION. IF DEPARTMENT HAS FURTHER POINTS IT WISHES ME TO MAKE, I WILL PROBABLY HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO GAMASY WHEN SEEING SADAT OFF ON SEPTEMBER 4. MATTHEWS

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